

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1.- 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A system for anchoring an object in the ground comprising:
a stake including:

a tube with at one end a drive-in spike and at the other end a tube head, said tube having a tube wall and being conceived to be inserted with its drive-in spike first, along a drive-in direction into the ground;

a central support rod which axially arranged within said tube, wherein it is axially guided in translation and prevented from rotating, said central rod having an upper end near said head of said tube and a lower end near said drive-in spike of said tube, said upper end being equipped with a first coupling means;

at least two deformable anchoring claws, each of said anchoring claws having one end which is borne by said lower end of said central support rod and another end passing through a through opening in said tube wall near said drive-in spike, said through openings having a geometry such that they cause said anchoring claws to deploy at an angle along said tube in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction when an axial traction is exerted on said central support rod in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction; and

means for employing said anchoring stake including:

a threaded rod for exerting said axial traction on said central support rod, said threaded rod including a first end and a second end, said first end being equipped with a second coupling means able to collaborate with said first coupling means at said upper end of said central support rod; and

a nut screwed on said second end of said threaded rod,

wherein, for exerting said axial traction on said central support rod in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction, said second coupling means is coupled to said first coupling means equipping said upper end of said support rod, and said nut screwed on said upper end of

said threaded rod is rotated in a first direction while it bears on said tube head.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for employing said anchoring stake further include:

a locking means connected to said tube head in such a way as to form a backstop for said nut when the latter is turned in a second direction, opposite to said first direction, in order thus to cause a translational movement of said threaded rod toward the inside of said tube and cause said claws to retract back inside said tube.

19. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said locking means is an element that can be removably connected to said tube head.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
said nut comprises a base;
said tube head comprises a collar; and
said locking means is a stirrup piece straddling said base and said collar.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first and second coupling means form a coupling with a helical connection or a bayonet connection.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said anchoring claws are deformable rods.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said tube has a square cross section with four corners, said central support rod has a round cross section, and said anchoring claws are deformable rods of round cross section which are arranged in said corners of said tube, said through openings for said deformable rods being arranged in said corners.

24. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein through openings for said deformable anchoring claws are located at different heights from said drive-in spike.

25. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 24, wherein said anchoring claws are borne by a plate fixed to said lower end of said central support rod and have different lengths.

26. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said lower end and said upper end of said central support rod are axially guided in said tube.

27. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising ground-firming means arranged around said tube at said tube head end.

28. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said ground-firming means comprises a body in the form of an inverted cone or of an inverted pyramid, provided with a central canal through which said tube can pass.

29. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein said body is formed of two half-bodies assembled along a central plane.

30. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~26~~27, wherein said ground-firming means comprise at least two T sections extending at an angle along the upper part of said tube so as to form a "V".

31. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for employing said anchoring stake further include a mandrel equipped with a shoulder able to bear against a collar surrounding said tube head in order to drive said tube into the ground, and equipped with a central rod with a supple end able to bear against the upper end of said central support rod in order to drive the latter into said tube and thus retract said claws.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a system as claimed in~~The system of claim 17 for anchoring a land-survey bench-mark in the ground, wherein said object is a land-survey bench-mark.

33. (New) A method for anchoring an object in the ground:

providing a stake including:

a tube with at one end a drive-in spike and at the other end a tube head, said tube having a tube wall and being conceived to be inserted with its drive-in spike first, along a drive-in direction into the ground;

a central support rod which axially arranged within said tube, wherein it is axially guided in translation and prevented from rotating, said central rod having an upper end near said head of said tube and a lower end near said drive-in spike of said tube, said upper end being equipped with a first coupling means;

at least two deformable anchoring claws, each of said anchoring claws having one end which is borne by said lower end of said central support rod and another end passing through a through opening in said tube wall near said drive-in spike, said through openings having a geometry such that they cause said anchoring claws to deploy at an angle along said tube in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction when an axial traction is exerted on said central support rod in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction;

driving said stake with its drive-in spike first, along a drive-in direction into the ground;

providing a threaded rod including:

a first end and a second end,

a second coupling means at said first end, said second coupling means being capable of being coupled to said first coupling means; and

a nut screwed on said second end of said threaded rod, said nut being capable of bearing on said tube head;

coupling said second coupling means of said threaded rod to said first coupling means of said support rod; and

rotating said nut bearing on said tube head in a first direction, so that it lifts said threaded rod out of said tube, whereby an axial traction in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction is exerted on said central support rod and said anchoring claws are caused to deploy along said tube in the opposite direction to said drive-in direction.